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Dated: December 1, 2004

Signature: Roger A. Hepperrmann

(Roger A. Hepperrmann)

Docket No.: 06005/37170
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Michael D. Apel et al.

Application No.: 09/871,115

Confirmation No.: 9797

Filed: May 31, 2001

Art Unit: 2182

For: INPUT/OUTPUT DEVICE WITH
CONFIGURATION, FAULT ISOLATION AND
REDUNDANT FAULT ASSIST
FUNCTIONALITY

Examiner: Tanh Q. NGUYEN

**RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT AND
PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

MS Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the restriction requirement set forth in the Office action mailed November 5, 2004, Applicants hereby cancel claims 1-11. Applicants further elect, with traverse, what the Examiner has identified as Species I of Group II, namely, claims 12-30, and 56-71, for continued examination. Additionally, Applicants add new independent generic claim 80, dependent claims 81-86 directed to Species II, and dependent claims 87-90 directed to Species I.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 21 of this paper.